

Leaving the Fold

A Group Pop-up Exhibit

Art Design Exchange, Portland Oregon, September 18-24, 2026

ARTIST PROSPECTUS

The Leaving the Fold organizing committee invites artists of all media to submit their work for this one-week exhibit. This non-juried show encourages artists to express their experiences of questioning faith, trauma, loss of community, healing, rebuilding identity and discovering life outside high demand groups. Sharing these stories through art can facilitate conversations, community and empathy.

This exhibit is open to people who have had experiences with any high-demand group or belief system.

Here are some questions to ask yourself if you need to get the creative juices flowing:

- What emotions came up for you when you were questioning your faith or belief system? Anger? Fear? Shame? Grief? Freedom? Determination?
- What does belief deconstruction mean to you?
- What are you feeling about your beliefs now?
- What would you like to tell your younger self about God/the divine/spirituality?

Accepted types of art:

Painting, printmaking, illustration, photography, fiber art, mixed media, sculpture, zines, calligraphy, music, sound, video, prose, poetry, performance or digital art. *We are not accepting AI created works for this exhibit.*

Application:

There is a \$10 non-refundable application fee for each artist or artist ensemble.

Sales:

Artists are welcome to sell their work, keeping 100% of their profit, as Art Design Xchange (ADX) does not take a sales percentage. Artists will need to set up their own independent payment portal and post a link to it next to their artwork. Artists are responsible for the delivery to the buyer.

Eligibility:

Artists ages 18 and older are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to Pacific Northwest residents.

Requirements:

- **Artist contributions:**

Leaving the Fold is being built as a collaborative, community-driven exhibit. In order to keep venue costs accessible, participating artists will be asked to sign up for a small number of gallery staffing shifts during the run of the exhibit. We hope this shared presence will also help create a more connected and meaningful experience for visitors and artists alike. The shifts would be approximately 3 hours each and artists are welcome to share shifts. Alternative volunteer contributions may be arranged for artists needing privacy, anonymity, accessibility accommodations, or schedule flexibility. The shifts will be coordinated by the organizing committee.

- Artists must bring their work to ADX on Thursday, September 17th, ready to be hung, displayed and presented. The address is: 417 SE 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

Important Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Monday, June 1: | Call to artists sent out |
| Wednesday, July 1: | Application deadline 5:00pm PST |
| Wednesday, July 15: | Participants selected and contacted |
| Saturday, August 1: | Publicity begins |
| Friday, September 4: | Proof of completed artwork is due for those who applied without a finished work. |
| Thursday, September 10: | Required Zoom meeting for all participants |
| Thursday, September 17: | Installation Day |
| Friday, September 18: | Opening Reception |

5:00-7:00pm - viewing the exhibit, socializing, and beverages

7:00-9:00pm - live music performed by participating artists

Sunday, September 20: Read aloud and forum

2:00-3:00 - Read Aloud by participating writers

3:00-4:00 - Artist Forum with facilitator

Thursday, September 24: Exhibit take-down and cleaning of space

Thursday, October 1: Profits from donations and drink sales will be distributed evenly among artists, after incurred expenses.

Installation Details and Guidelines:

- Delivery and pickup of artwork is the responsibility of the artist. Any complex displays will need to be coordinated with the exhibit team.
- There is space for large work. If the artist's work is larger than 4'h x 4'w x 1'd, they must have the work approved by the organizing committee, to ensure the gallery space is adequate for the work.
- Each artist may submit up to three pieces of art.
- All wall-mounted art must be ready to hang, with D-rings and wire attached to the piece. Sawtooth hangers will not be stable for this space.
- Any freestanding artwork such as sculptures or electronics must be stable and secured.
- The gallery manager is available to help with coordination and questions about artwork.
- The organizing committee will print out labels and artists statements provided previously by the artists.
- Artwork will not be insured by ADX or the exhibit committee. The event itself will be insured by a private insurer.

Photography:

- We encourage all entrants to provide the exhibit team with photography of your submitted works. The photographs will be used for publicity and communication purposes by both ADX and the *Leaving the Fold* committee.
- Exhibitors must opt in to having photographs of their submitted works shown or distributed in this manner by signing the consent form.
- Photos must be a minimum of 600 KB in file size and a maximum of 2 MB.

- Please photograph your work **before** framing it.

Accessibility / Values Statement

1. This exhibit is a safe space. It is a place of healing and connection for those who have experienced significant trauma, and participants may be at different stages of their recovery journey. Artists and attendees alike must demonstrate respect for those with a wide range of backgrounds, belief systems, ethnicities, religions, abilities, political affiliations, LGBTQIA+ status, and more. Violence, hate speech, and other acts of discrimination will not be tolerated. Those that violate this rule are subject to removal from the exhibit.
2. All art submitted must be the original creation of the person/s submitting this form. Any art that violates copyright will be disqualified.
3. If I offer my work for sale, I affirm that I have obtained appropriate copyright permissions for any quotes, images, or other content used in the artwork, or that such elements are in the public domain.
4. I acknowledge that insurance for my artwork is solely my responsibility. The exhibit organizers, including but not limited to Art Design Xchange (ADX) and the Leaving the Fold planning committee, will not provide insurance coverage and are not liable for any damage, loss, or theft of my artwork, although reasonable care will be taken to protect it.
5. I release the exhibit organizers from any and all liability related to the handling, display, promotion, or sale of my work.
6. Art containing pornographic imagery will be disqualified. Gore, profanity, nudity, etc. are permissible at the discretion of the art review panel.
7. Please refrain from using any flashing or strobing lights in your composition for the safety and health of attendees.
8. Artists are responsible for safely delivering and picking up their art at the venue by the required deadlines and in compliance with the venue's rules. Deadlines and logistics will be provided to participants closer to the event.
9. If artists submit an unfinished art piece on this form that they intend to finish before the event, the artists must email proof of their finished product no later than Friday, September 4, 2026 and adhere to all of the rules and disclosures described herein to avoid disqualification.
10. **Your safety is priority.** By participating in this exhibit, artists authorize their work to be photographed and/or recorded by the public, which could end up online. **Please carefully consider any potential safety risks or legal risks this may cause when deciding if and what to share.**
11. [INSERT VENUE RULES LINK HERE]

Other event details:

Public admission is free for entrance to the exhibit, including the opening reception. There will be a donate-what-you-can to support the project. The proceeds of the donations will be evenly divided among the artists after any incurred bills are paid. A suggested donation of \$5 is encouraged (or more if you want to be our best friends).

Art Design Xchange

Art Design Xchange is a hub for Portland creatives. It's a space where artists, designers, makers, builders, thinkers, and innovators come together to create, connect and collaborate. Artists who rent studio space at ADX have access to their space 24/7. There will likely be artists coming and going throughout the day, using the community space and kitchen area.

Gallery X (the exhibit space in ADX)

- 1000 sf space, ADA accessible
- 100 person capacity
- A clean open space with a loading bay
- one ADA all gender bathroom
- Kitchen/bar
- Equipment available upon request:
 - 60 chairs
 - 12 tables
 - Lounge with couch, coffee table, armchair
 - Music performance platform
 - PA System w/4 Channel Mixer
 - Projector and Screen
 - microphone and a mic stand
 - pedestals or stands for 3-D art